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— The *Atlantic Monthly* for January is a very good number. The article in it that is most likely to attract intelligent readers is that on "John Stuart Mill and the London and Westminster Review." Mill was the proprietor of that *Review* from 1836 to 1840, and had as his assistant in the editorship a young Scotchman named John Robertson; and this article consists in the main of letters that Mill addressed to Robertson during those years. The letters are very interesting, not only as revealing certain aspects of Mill's character, but also as showing the care with which he strove to keep the *Review* up to a high standard, and also with what keen intelligence he criticised the articles that were offered for insertion in it. Another article that is sure to attract notice is that on "Boston," by Ralph Waldo Emerson, in which the author traces the historical connection between the character of the early settlers and the moral and intellectual influence of Boston in American life. He justly says that Boston owes her influence to her religious earnestness and her instinct of freedom, and predicts that, so long as she retains these qualities, her influence will continue. This article was written in 1861, but has never before been published. Mr. Henry James contributes some reminiscences of James Russell Lowell, and expresses the opinion that Lowell's influence was mainly due to his style, both in writing and in speech, — a remark that is to a certain extent true, though the faults of Mr. James's own style are such that he is hardly a competent critic. Besides these papers, there are some excellent book-reviews, the beginning of a novel by F. Marion Crawford, and various

other articles which we have not space to particularize. The *Atlantic's* programme for 1892 is unusually varied and promising; and the magazine is sure to have interested readers throughout the year.

— *Garden and Forest* for Christmas week contained, as its leading illustration, one of a grove of hemlocks whitened with lately-fallen snow, and in an editorial article the stateliness and grace of this northern evergreen are celebrated. There are pictures, too, of a rare orchid in bloom, and cultural directions for growers of fruit and flowers. Mrs. Robbins gives a sketch of Deering's Woods, Portland, in her New England Park series; Mr. Jack adds some notes on his horticultural tour through Europe, and M. Demontzey tells how he has tamed the torrents of the French Alps by reclothing their basins with growing forests.

— From the D. Van Nostrand Company we have received "How to Become an Engineer," by George W. Plympton (18°, 50 cents). It is a brief treatise on the theoretical and practical training necessary in fitting for the duties of the civil engineer, giving the opinions of eminent authorities on the subject, and indicating the courses of study in engineering usually followed in the technical schools. From the same company has come "The Sextant," by F. R. Brainard (18°, 50 cents), being a treatise on reflecting mathematical instruments, with practical hints, suggestions, and "wrinkles" on their errors, adjustments, and use. To the sextant, the form of reflecting instrument most commonly

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